

Family Art from Home

Croc-Key-Diles and other Household Creatures

by Eden Resnik

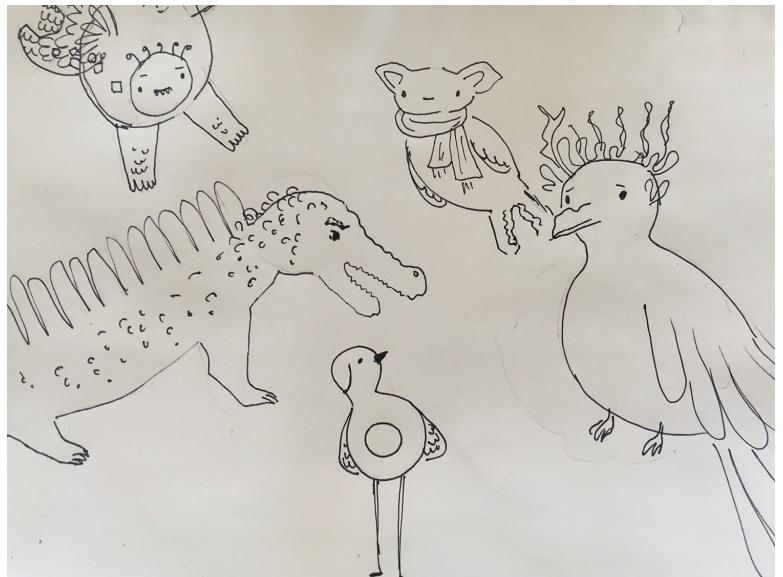
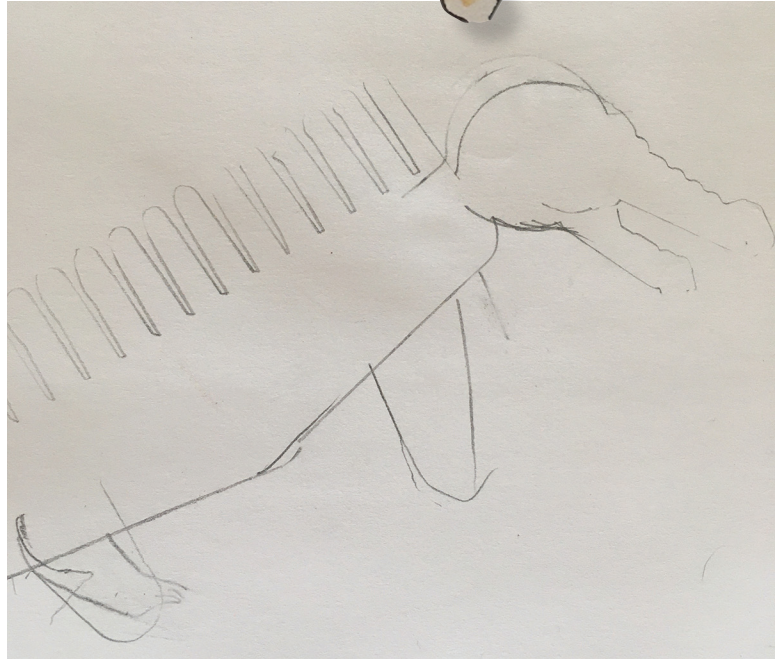
Get creative by using household objects to design real and imagined creatures. Bring your creature to life through adding details and color. Then come up with a clever name for your creature using the name of the object, like the one in the title of this lesson.

Supplies

- Blank paper (thicker paper if you want to use watercolor or markers)
- Pencil
- Sharpie
- Materials to color with such as watercolor, markers, or colored pencils
- Brush and water if you are using watercolor
- Small household objects like keys, toys, blocks, rings, tools etc.

How to Do It

1. Choose an object to start with and lay it on your paper. Turn it around until you are happy with the shape it will make, and trace around it with the pencil. Continue adding shapes and tracing them to create an outline of any creature, real or imaginary. If you feel stuck, start by tracing a key. Notice in the photo that it can become a crocodile's head.
2. Go over your outline with the sharpie. Erase the pencil lines beneath.
3. With your sharpie, add features such as eyes, a nose, scales, feathers, gills, wings or whatever your creature needs. If you don't have limbs in your outline, you can add them at this stage.
4. Your creature likely needs a friend! See how many different creatures you can invent with a single object as a starting point, or use many different objects to create a detailed character.



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5. Once you are satisfied with your creatures, its time to add color!

If you are using watercolor, wet your brush and add a tiny bit of color from your palette. It always looks nice to water down your colors and mix them separately before painting. Layer the colors by letting them dry between steps and then add some shading or patterns. You can also add drops of color while your character is still wet and let the colors bleed into each other.

If you choose markers, you don't have to color the whole outline. Sometimes just adding a little color will bring the character to life. Try selecting a few colors and repeating them throughout your piece. If you use red for part of the creature, add some red shapes or textures in the background. This will make the art piece feel more complete.

With colored pencils, explore the different affects you get depending on how much you pressure you put on the pencil. Usually holding the pencil gently makes a softer and more even color while pushing a bit harder makes a brighter color. Use these techniques to color large areas of your creature and draw vibrant patterns.

6. Add any additional background textures or shapes using the same colors. Enjoy your household creatures!

